

Purpose

This public participation plan provided guidance for outreach activities during the final development of the Utah Department of Transportation's *Long-Range Transportation Plan 2007-2030*. It contains goals and objectives, roles and responsibilities, implementation tactics and timelines for public involvement during the final development stage of the long-range plan.

UDOT Long-Range Transportation Plan

UDOT's *Long-Range Transportation Plan 2007-2030* addresses the capacity needs for all highways designated as state routes, US Highways, and Interstates in the rural areas of Utah during the next 30 years. Local and statewide transportation needs and priorities are identified and prioritized according to UDOT's four strategic goals. General revenue projections have been developed and alternative funding approaches have been identified.

UDOT's Long-Range Transportation Plan 2007-2030 has been written by UDOT with the assistance of many individuals and organizations. UDOT has worked closely with the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs); local, state, and federal agencies; communities; general public; and non-governmental agencies and organizations to determine the current and projected transportation needs and to evaluate the best solutions to fulfill those needs.

FHWA/FTA Proposed SAFETEA-LU Federal Regulations

On June 9, 2006, the FHWA and the FTA jointly proposed the revision to regulations governing the development of long range transportation plans resulting from the adoption of SAFETEA-LU. The proposed rules affirm that states must develop their long-range transportation plans in consultation with affected non-metropolitan officials with responsibility for transportation.

In addition, the proposed regulations identify the key audiences that the states must provide a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed long-range statewide transportation plan. They include:

1. citizens

2. affected public agencies
3. representatives of public transportation employees
4. freight shippers and providers of freight transportation services
5. private providers of transportation
6. representatives of users of public transportation
7. representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities
8. representatives of the disabled
9. other interested parties

In providing consultation to non-metropolitan transportation officials and in providing opportunities for comment, the states must go, "to the maximum extent practicable," to fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) Establish early and continuous public involvement opportunities that provide timely information about transportation issues and decision-making processes;
- (ii) Provide reasonable public access to technical and policy information used in the development of the long-range statewide transportation plan;
- (iii) Provide adequate public notice of public involvement activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including but not limited to a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed long-range statewide transportation plan;
- (iv) Ensure that public meetings are held at convenient and accessible locations and times;
- (v) Use visualization techniques to describe the proposed long-range statewide transportation plan and supporting studies;
- (vi) Make public information available in electronically accessible format and means, such as the World Wide Web, as appropriate to afford reasonable opportunity for consideration of public information;
- (vii) Demonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input during the development of the long-range statewide transportation plan;

(viii) Include a process for seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services; and

(ix) Provide for the periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all interested parties and revise the process, as appropriate.

Public Participation Goals, Objectives and Tactics

Before the long range plan became final, UDOT gave affected jurisdictions and interested parties an opportunity to review and comment on the plan's final direction. UDOT consulted with the public and local officials to determine if their issues had been addressed, and to obtain feedback on the project list.

The tactics to involve the public, identified below, were selected based on UDOT's Public Involvement Plan goals and objectives for public participation during this final stage of the process.

Public Involvement Goals:

1. To improve the quality of transportation decision-making and increase the range of opportunities for stakeholder consultation in the planning process.
2. To better understand the balance between what we want our transportation system to look like and what we can afford by engaging the public during the draft stage of the planning process.
3. To provide opportunities for public review and comment at key decision points.

Objectives:

1. To obtain written comment on the draft final document.
2. To release the Unified Plan to the public.

UDOT's Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Rural and Small Urban Areas Public Outreach Strategies, Tactics and Schedule

I. Strategies, Tactics and Schedule

Strategy #1 Internal Communication **Approval of draft plan and initiating public comment**

Strategy #1 Tactic #1

What: Internal review and approval for public comment
When: February, 2007
Task: meeting with Executive Director
Lead: Matt Swapp, UDOT

Strategy #1 Tactic # 2

What: UDOT Transportation Commission Briefings
When: February 9, 2007 – February 15, 2007
Tasks: Schedule one-on-one meetings with commissioners
Lead: Matt Swapp and John Thomas, UDOT

Strategy #1 Tactic #3

What: Present Plan to the UDOT Transportation Commission
When: February 16, 2007
Lead: Matt Swapp, UDOT

Strategy #2 External Communications **Announce 30-day Public Comment Period –** **March 26–April 26, 2007 – and encourage** **comment**

Strategy #2 Tactic #1

What: Participate in WFRC and MAG **Press Conference**
April 6, 2007 at Intermodal Hub 10:00am
• Publicize opportunities for public comment
• Lend UDOT support to MPO plans
Speaking: John Thomas

Strategy #2 Tactic #2

What: Submit Press Release/Article to newspapers and community newsletters regarding plan content and opportunity for public comment

Contact: Megan James
Phone: 801-965-3897
Cell: 801-870-2692
Email: mjames@utah.gov
<http://www.udot.utah.gov>

Long Range Transportation Plan For Utah's Rural Areas, Small Cities Available for Public Comment

Salt Lake City – The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) will release the Long Range Transportation Plan 2007-2030 for public comment beginning March 26, 2007 through April 26, 2007.

This plan focuses on capacity projects in the rural and small urban areas of Utah. It can be reviewed at local libraries throughout the state, at UDOT Region offices or online at www.udot.utah.gov.

"Planning for future transportation projects is a comprehensive process that requires the input and perspective of community members, elected officials and public agencies," said UDOT Planning Director John Thomas. "Utah is experiencing tremendous growth and an increased demand for transportation facilities."

Small urban areas across the state are growing rapidly. The greater St. George area's population has increased from approximately 26,000 residents in 1980 to more than 90,000 in 2000. It is expected to grow to more than 354,000 by 2030. Similarly, Cedar City, Heber City, Hurricane, Moab, Tooele, and Vernal all are growing at record rates.

Public comments regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan 2007-2030 will help UDOT to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the state's plans to increase mobility and address future transportation needs.

"Feedback from those who use our state highways on a daily basis helps us identify transportation solutions that will meet the needs of Utah communities," said Thomas.

In addition to this plan focusing on rural areas, separate plans have been written for the metropolitan areas under the direction of the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO), Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) and the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMPO). When available, these plans may also be accessed on UDOT's website.

Once public comments are reviewed, an executive summary of all five plans will be produced. This summary, called the Unified Transportation Plan, is due to be released statewide in July 2007.

Press Release Submitted to:

LTAP newsletter Julie Duersch at <jduersch@cc.usu.edu>.

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The Daily Utah Chronicle sgehrke@chronicle.utah.edu,
press@chronicle.utah.edu

Tooele Transcript Bulletin tlp@tooeletranscript.com

Magna Times/West Valley News, magwest@xmission.com

Wasatch Wave, 435.654.5805 editor@wasatchwave.com

Uintah Basin Standard, 435.722.4140 ubs@ubstandard.com

Vernal Express, 435.789.8690 editor@vernal.com

The Times News, 435.623.4735 editor@nephitimesnews.com

Beaver Press, bpress@xmission.com

Blue Mountain Panorama, panorama@citlink.net

Bloomington Home Owner's Association, jvwill@charter.net

Daily Spectrum, BPassey@thespectrum.com

Daily Spectrum (Cedar City), ekociela@thespectrum.com

Cedar City Review, lisa@cedarcityreview.com

Deseret News, nperkins@desnews.com

Dixie Sun, 435.656.4019 (fax)

Emery County Progress, editor@ecprogress.com

Salina Sun, salinasun@altazip.com

Hurricane Valley Journal, editor@hvjournal.com

Milford Main Street News, milfordmainstreetnews@yahoo.com

Millard County Chronicle Progress, chronpro@delwave.com

Millard County Gazette, gazette@xmission.com

Moab Happenings, info@moabhappenings.com

Richfield Reaper, reapered@richfieldreaper.com

Main Street Business Journal, journal@infowest.com

St. George Chamber newsletter, lorri@stgeorgechamber.com

Salt Lake Tribune, mhavnes@sltrib.com

San Juan Record, sjrnews@frontiernet.net

Sanpete Messenger, news@sanpetemessenger.com

Southern Utah News, sunews@knab.net

Sun Advocate, editor@sunad.com

Times Independent, editor@moabtimes.com

The Insider, snapshot@scintern.net

The University Journal, journal@suu.edu

Trucker Newsletter, TBSsmith@hotmail.com

Strategy #3 Increase document availability and encourage public comment in the most cost effective manner

Strategy #3 Tactic #1

What: **Distribute Plan** and *Solicit comments from general public*

- Distribute hard copies of plan along with introductory letter to libraries statewide.
- Long Range Plan on UDOT website (accessible from main page) www.udot.utah.org

The following letter was sent accompanying copies of plans to libraries. For details on where copies were sent, please refer to the mailing list attachment.

March 21, 2007

Long Range Transportation Plan for Utah's Rural Areas and Small Cities available for Public Comment

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) will release the Long Range Transportation Plan 2007-2030 for public comment beginning March 26, 2007 through April 26, 2007. Public comments will help UDOT to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the state's plan to increase mobility and address future transportation needs. The plan will also be available on the UDOT website at www.udot.utah.gov. Comments regarding this document or other mobility issues should be submitted online or by email to (mjames@utah.gov) or by phone (801-965-3897).

We invite you to keep the enclosed copy of this plan in your library and encourage the public in your area to review it and provide feedback.

In addition to this plan focusing on rural areas, separate plans have been written for the metropolitan areas under the direction of the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO), Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) and the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMPO). When available, these plans may also be accessed on UDOT's website.

Once public comments are reviewed, an executive summary of all five plans will be produced. This summary, called the Unified Transportation Plan, is due to be released statewide in July 2007.

For further information, please contact Megan James at 801-965-3897 or mjames@utah.gov. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John Thomas
Director of Transportation Planning

Strategy #3 Tactic #2

What: Solicit comments from internal stakeholders, affected jurisdictions and interest groups.

- Distribute copies of plan along with introductory letter to UDOT leadership, and Transportation Commission.
- Company-wide email announcement sent to UDOT employees notifying them of the plan and opportunity to comment on 3/26/2007
- Email announcement sent to interest groups and public agencies including FHWA, Dept. of Economic Development, Division of Indian Affairs, Utah Trucking Association, Envision Utah, Division of Wildlife Resources, Dept. of Environmental Quality, and Bicycle Advocacy groups.

A copy of the email sent is below. For a complete listing of groups contacted by email, please see mailing list attachment.

Public Comment Period on the Draft UDOT Long Range Transportation Plan 2007-2030 begins today and runs through April 26, 2007. This plan focuses on mobility needs for the Rural and Small Urban areas of the state.

The draft plan has been posted on the UDOT website and is now available for review.
<http://www.udot.utah.gov/>

MPO urban area plans will be also available next week and can be accessed as links from our UDOT site.

Please look through the document and forward any comments you may have to:

Megan James
mjames@utah.gov
(801) 965-3897

Thanks,

A. Matthew Swapp, P.E.
Engineer Manager - UDOT Planning
Office Phone (801) 965-4829
Cell Phone (801) 870-4023
FAX (801) 965-4551

Strategy #3 Tactic #3

What: Solicit comments from local officials, affected jurisdictions, and interest groups by sending a letter notifying them of the public comment period.

- *Send letters to inform local officials (Mayors, City Clerks and County Commissioners) of plan content and encourage comment.*
- *Send letters to encourage comments from interest groups and other public agencies*

The following letter was sent to mayors, city clerks and county commissioners as well as interest groups (transit providers, MPOs, Resource Agencies, Indian Nations, and environmental advocacy groups) statewide. For a complete list of names and addresses sent to, please refer to mailing list attachment.

March 21, 2007

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We invite you to participate in reviewing this plan and encourage the public in your area to also review it and take advantage of this opportunity to voice their concerns and suggestions.

The Long Range Transportation Plan for 2007-2030 will be available to view at local libraries, UDOT Region offices, and on our website at www.udot.utah.gov. Comments regarding this document or other mobility issues should be submitted online or by email to (mjames@utah.gov) or by phone (801-965-3897).

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For further information, please contact Megan James at 801-965-3897 or mjames@utah.gov. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John Thomas
Director of Transportation Planning

Strategy #3 Tactic #4

What: Participate in Area MPO Open Houses and Visit Local Governments to publicize plan and encourage comment

- March 26 – Cache MPO open house
(Matthew Swapp and Andy Neff)
- April 6 – Press Conference with WFRC and MAG at Intermodal Hub SLC 10am
(John Thomas, Matt Swapp, Megan James)
- April 10 - Dixie MPO open house at 5 County AOG office from 4-7pm,
(Matt Swapp and Myron Lee)
- April 11 WFRC open house at Davis County Centerville City Hall from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. in conjunction with UDOT Region I on a corridor study for SR 106 the Parrish Lane bridge project and the South Davis Transit Study
(Matt Swapp)
- April 11 –Local government visit with Beaver and Piute county and city officials
(Brett Hadley and Megan James)
- April 12 –Local government visit with Sanpete county and city officials
(Brett Hadley and Megan James)
- April 17 –Local government visit with Weber County and city officials
(Brett Hadley and Megan James)
- April 18 – SR-73 Corridor Study open house, Eagle Mountain, in conjunction with Mountainview Corridor
(Walt Steinvorth)
- April 19 - SR-48 Corridor Study open house, 4:30-7pm at Copper Hills High school
(Walt Steinvorth and Kevin Nichol)
- April 25, 26 and 27 ULCT Road School Booth, St. George
(Tim Boschert and Brett Hadley)
- April 25 – MAG MPO open house at 586E. 800 N. Orem, 4-6pm
(Megan James and Geoff Dupaix)
- May 3 – WFRC open house at SLCO Gov. Building in atrium 2100S. State, 3-5:30pm
(Megan James)
- May 3 – WFRC open house at Draper Elementary 1080E. 12660 S. 6-8:30pm
(Kevin Nichol and Megan James)
- May 7 WFRC open house at Weber County Gov. Center, Commission Chambers Breakout Room 2380 South Washington Blvd. Ogden, 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (in conjunction with the Weber County Council of Governments mtg.)

(Matt Swapp)

May 8 Local government visit with Rich County and city officials
(Brett Hadley and Megan James)

May 9 Local government visit with Cache, Box Elder County and city officials
(Brett Hadley and Megan James)

May 10 Local government visit with Salt Lake, Utah County and city officials
(Brett Hadley and Megan James)

**Strategy #4 Educate public on statewide long-range
transportation plan by releasing The Unified
Plan**

Strategy #4 Tactic #1

What: *Joint UDOT and Area MPOs Press Conference*

Lead: UDOT

Key Messages:

- 5 plans developed using same assumptions/prioritizations merged into one statewide plan
- One-Stop Shopping for State's needs - One list of projects identified by phases
- First time in the country that all transportation planning agencies have come together to develop one unified plan

When: July 2007